

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a hearing person and use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with other deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in it's power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities - Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you,

John W. Blaney
82 Durham Rush Rd.
Deville, LA. 71328

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

JUL 23 2007

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

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I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

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Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Candace M. Nelson

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

2003.2.25

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

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I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

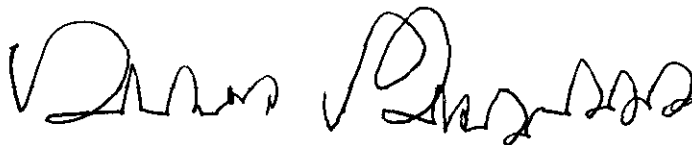
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Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,



Re: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell and Tate:

I am writing on behalf of the deaf who use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC intends on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

Many deaf individuals use these services in both their work and personal lives. It is an important way in which they communicate with both the hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

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- Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

There are many deaf individuals, their families and co-workers who depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Meghan & Kevin Baner

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

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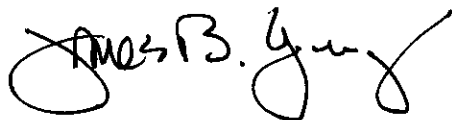
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Sincerely,

Sincerely yours,



James B. Young

CC / Florida Association of the Deaf, 5107 14th St. West, Bradenton, FL 34207
National Association of the Deaf, 8630 Fenton St., Suite 820, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3819

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

JUN 15 2007

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Sincerely,

Latonia Pugh

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,


Launa Fields Ryan

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Sincerely,

Janice Hemphill
250 E. Telegraph Rd #340
Fillmore, CA 93015

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy/Stephen Finley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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Bonell R. Blaney
82 Durham Rush Rd
Deville, Louisiana
71328

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Thank you,

Susan Markway

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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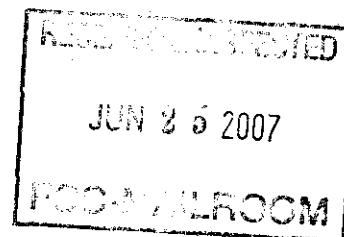
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Sincerely,

Marilyn Kontowski



RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

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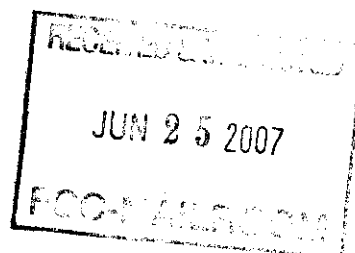
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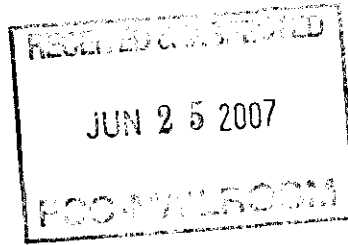


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445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554



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Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Kontowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Kontowski" clearly legible.

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

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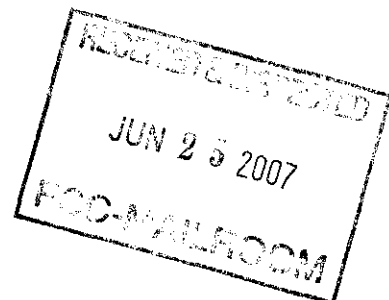
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Sincerely,

Dennie Smith



RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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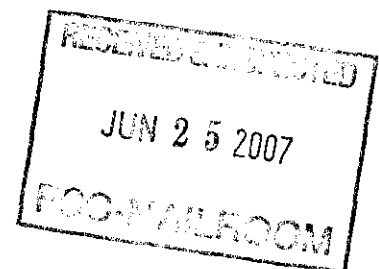
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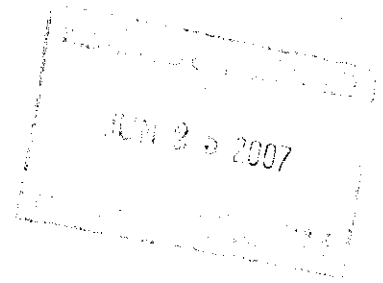
Sincerely,

Michelle Kantaule



May 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: CG Docket No. 03-123; TRS Fund – Drastic VRS Rate Cuts

Dear Chairman Martin,
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, And Tate:

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Sincerely,

Signature

Yoko Foster

Printed Name

Yoko Foster

Address

517 Terrill Ave

City

Los Angeles

State

CA

Zip

90042

Email

tsuchiya.yoko@hotmail.com

May 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

JUN 25 2007

Re: CG Docket No. 03-123; TRS Fund – Drastic VRS Rate Cuts

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Sincerely,

Signature Delia Turner
Printed Name Delia Turner
Address 831 Lamer St
City Burbank
State CA
Zip 91505
Email deliaturner4@hotmail.com

May 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

5/13/07

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Sincerely,

Signature Sage Reeves
Printed Name Sage Reeves
Address 3191 Sepulveda
City LA
State CA
Zip 90034
Email sage.reeves@comcast.net

May 2007

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

JUN 25 2007

Re: CG Docket No. 03-123; TRS Fund – Drastic VRS Rate Cuts

Dear Chairman Martin,
Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, And Tate:

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I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

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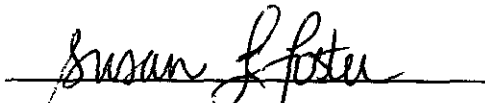
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Sincerely,

Signature



Printed Name

Susan L. Foster

Address

2300 Tulace Ave #B

City

Burbank

State

Ca

Zip

91504

Email

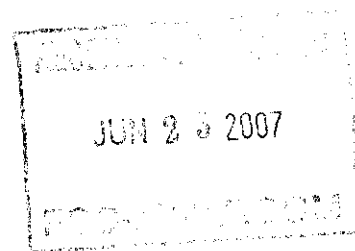
Sfossie22@sbcglobal.net

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

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Jaimie Gonzalez

May 2007

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Anne Reeves

Printed Name

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Address

3191 Sepulveda Blvd 107

City

LA

State

CA

Zip

90034

Email

areeves@ucla.edu

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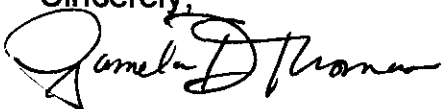
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Handwritten signature of Pamela D. Thomas in cursive script.

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Rachel Lewis
6/16/07

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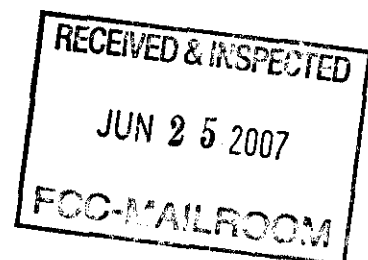
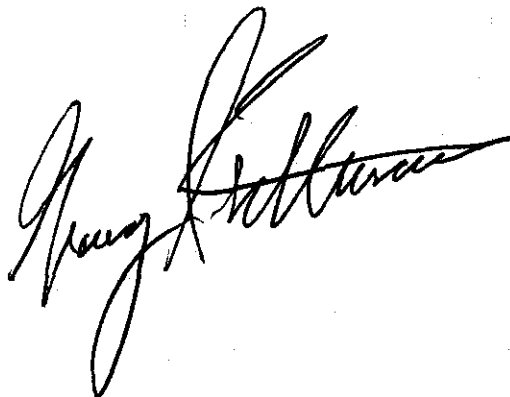
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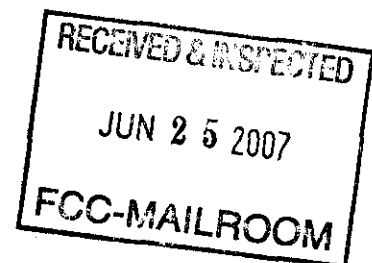
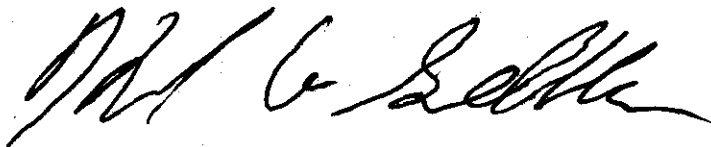
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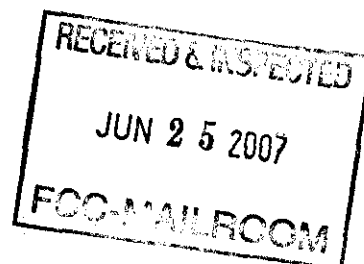
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Michael E. Fontana



RECEIVED & INSPECTED
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FCC - MAILROOM

LA The Olathe News, Thursday, May 31, 2007

KS

OPINION

Video Relay Services and the FCC

Several years ago, the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., approved funding for a new source of telecommunication for deaf and hard-of-hearing people to use — Video Relay Service.

Deaf people can call a VRS provider on a Web cam, and an interpreter (communication assistant) will appear on screen for them to sign in their native sign language to make a phone call to a third party.

Instead of using TTY to type messages to the relay operator through the TTY relay service, deaf people will communicate by sign language through the interpreter to provide voice communication with a third party on the telephone.

Many deaf people in personal and employment situations use VRS as a criti-

cal communication tool to make phone calls to hearing people.

Because of VRS, many deaf people have switched from using TTY relay services to VRS, which has caused a significant increase in its demand.

One difference between using the TTY relay service and the interpreter on VRS is that using VRS is much faster than typing on TTY. Some deaf people do not have good English or typing skills to communicate well on TTY.

The higher cost of using a qualified interpreter in the top tier of levels 4 and 5 easily can run \$30 per hour or more for VRS compared to \$12 per hour for a regular

operator for TTY.

When the FCC approved funding for VRS, providers immediately set up VRS centers across the country, which put qualified interpreters in short supply. In the Kansas City area, two VRS providers set up call centers employing 40 to 60 qualified level 4 and 5 inter-

preters during the week.

There were only about 90 qualified level 4 and 5 interpreters in the area. Hospitals, police departments, local governments and other organizations are having a difficult time finding qualified interpreters upon short notice of one or two days for deaf people.

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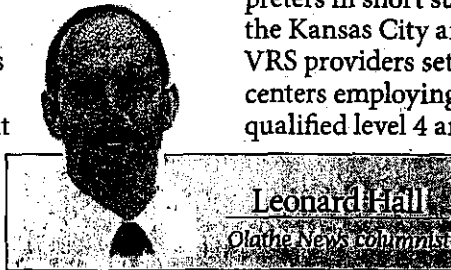
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Leonard Hall
Olathe News columnist

Better than cake, candles or gift wrap

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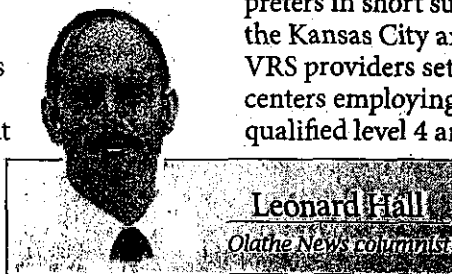
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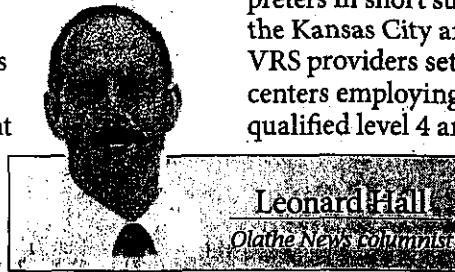
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900 S Windsor Rd.
Olathe, KS 66061

KANSAS CITY 64101

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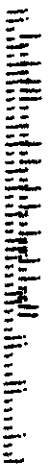
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FCC

445 12th St.

Washington DC 20554

20554+0000



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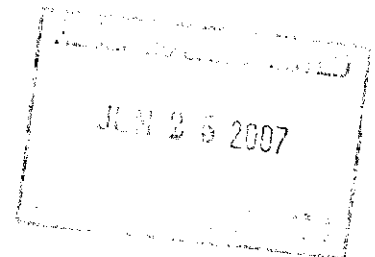
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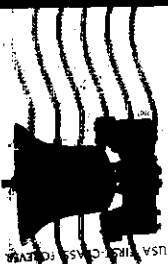
Austin Crisp



4713 Bonny Oaks Dr. Apt 2505
Chattanooga, TN 37416

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